

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please amend the claims as follows. A complete listing of claims and their status in the above-identified application is shown below.

1. (Currently Amended) A network based scheduling system for developing a schedule for a sponsoring organization, the system comprising:

a sponsor controlled customer database containing information relevant to individual customers who periodically need to schedule appointments with the sponsoring organization;

a set of sponsor parameters associated with each customer which define possible appointment times for a customer;

a central controller managing a schedule for the sponsoring organization, wherein the central controller operates via a network to

- i) contact a plurality ~~at least some~~ of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments via the network,
- ii) supply available appointment times via the network directly to a plurality ~~at least some~~ of the customers, with the available appointment times that are supplied are determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer, whereby the supplied appointment times are specific to the individual customer, and
- iii) receive scheduling information via the network directly from a plurality ~~at least some~~ of the customers.

2. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.

3. (Currently Amended) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller supplies a graphical appointment calendar via the network to a plurality ~~at least some~~ of the customers with the available appointment times that have been

determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer being graphically illustrated, wherein the customer can directly schedule an appointment via the network by selecting the icon associated with the desired appointment time.

4. (Currently Amended) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller uses electronic mail to contact a plurality at least some of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments and uses the World Wide Web to supply available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer to a plurality at least some of the customers and to receive scheduling information directly from a plurality at least some of the customers.

5. (Currently Amended) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller contacts a plurality at least some of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments via off-line communication techniques.

6. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the sponsor parameters for each customer include the availability of sponsor personnel, the availability of sponsor resources, and the time to be allotted for the scheduled appointment.

7. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller supplies the sponsor with a real time master schedule via the network.

8. (Currently Amended) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the controller contacts a plurality at least some of the customers via the network concerning rescheduling of appointments due to changes in the sponsor parameters.

9. (Currently Amended) The scheduling system of claim 8, wherein the rescheduling of appointments is prompted by customer preferences wherein a

preferential appointment time becomes available and the customer is subsequently notified via the network by the controller.

10. (Original) The scheduling system of claim 1, wherein the sponsor is a medical professional.

11. (Currently Amended) A method for developing a schedule for a sponsoring organization comprising the steps of:

providing a sponsor controlled customer database containing information relevant to individual customers who periodically need to schedule appointments with the sponsoring organization, a set of sponsor parameters associated with each customer which define possible appointment times for a customer, and a central controller creating a schedule for the sponsoring organization;

contacting via an electronic network a plurality at least some of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments;

supplying via the electronic network available appointment times to a plurality at least some of the customers, with the available appointment times determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer, whereby the supplied appointment times are specific to the individual customer; and

receiving scheduling information via the electronic network directly from a plurality at least some of the customers.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the network is the World Wide Web.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller supplies a graphical appointment calendar via the network to a plurality at least some of the customers with the available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer being graphically

illustrated, wherein the customer can directly schedule an appointment via the network by selecting the icon associated with the desired appointment time.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller uses electronic mail to contact a plurality at least some of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments and uses the World Wide Web to supply available appointment times that have been determined by the sponsor parameters associated with the individual customer to a plurality at least some of the customers and to receive scheduling information directly from a plurality at least some of the customers.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller contacts a plurality at least some of the customers concerning the scheduling of appointments via off-line communication techniques.

16. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the sponsor parameters for each customer include the availability of sponsor personnel, the availability of sponsor resources, and the time to be allotted for the scheduled appointment.

17. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller supplies the sponsor with a real time master schedule via the network.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the controller contacts a plurality at least some of the customers via the network concerning rescheduling of appointments due to changes in the sponsor parameters.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 18, wherein the rescheduling of appointments is prompted by customer preferences wherein a preferential appointment time comes available and the customer is subsequently notified via the network by the controller.

20. (Original) The method of claim 11, wherein the sponsor is a medical professional.